

Inside Wallops

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NASA Holds Renaming Ceremony for Balloon Facility

A renaming ceremony of the National Scientific Balloon Facility in Palestine, Texas, to the Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility (CSBF) was held on Thursday, February 23, 2006.

The 90-minute ceremony began with the presentation of colors by the Fort Worth Naval Air Station, National Guard. The University of Texas at Tyler's Patriot Singers and brass quintet performed the National Anthem.

Balloon Program Office Chief, Dave Pierce, welcomed the 250 guests and introduced the speakers that included Danny Ball, CSBF Site Manager; State Senator Todd Staples; State Representative Byron Cook; U.S. Congressman Jeb Hensarling; and NASA astronauts, Drs. Stanley Love and John Grunsfeld. Dr. John Campbell, Wallops Senior Manager, concluded the ceremony with an unveiling of the new gate sign for the Facility.

Rep. Hensarling proposed the name change to the House Committee on Science on April 26, 2005, as a reminder



The new gate sign.

CSBF Photo

of what the crew of the space shuttle Columbia stood for: honor, bravery and the quest for knowledge for generations to come. NASA officially changed the name of the Facility on August 8, 2005.

On February 1, 2003, the Columbia and crew were lost over the western United States during re-entry into Earth's atmosphere. The 28th and final flight of Columbia (STS-107) was a 16-day mission dedicated to research in physical, life and space sciences.

The balloon facility was established in 1961 by the National Science Foundation in Boulder, Colo. It moved to Palestine in 1963. It was named the National Scientific Balloon Facility in January 1973. In 1982, sponsorship of the Facility was transferred to NASA.

The Facility provides complete balloon operation services and engineering support to the scientific community in the United States and several foreign countries.

Operation services include inflating and launching the balloon, tracking and recovery of the payload, tele-command and data retrieval.

Engineering support includes balloon systems and electronics' design and materials research.

Seventy-four on-site contract employees work at the Facility in support of NASA's international balloon operations.

NASA Wallops Flight Facility manages the scientific balloon program for the agency's Science Mission Directorate.

Wallops Shorts.....

In the News

Herald-Press, Palestine, Texas – "Ceremony to Mark Name Change of Balloon Facility"

KLTV Palestine – "Research Facility Renamed in Palestine"

Tyler (Texas) Morning Telegraph – "Balloon Facility Renamed Columbia"

On the Road

Tom Wilson, Facilities Management Branch, and Debbie Parks, Systems Software Engineering Branch, took part in a Career Fair for students from Northampton High School (NHS) and Broadwater Academy on February 22 at NHS in Eastville, Va.

Barton Bull, GN&C and Mission Systems Engineering Branch, participated in a Career Fair at Accomack Elementary School on February 24.

Keith Koehler, Public Affairs Office, staffed an exhibit at the Eastern Shore Heritage Celebration on February 25 at the Eastern Shore Community College.

Dave Pierce and Bernice Merritt, Balloon Program Office; John Campbell and Craig Purdy, Suborbital and Special Orbital Projects Directorate; and Betty Flowers, Public Affairs Office, attended the Renaming Ceremony for the Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility, Palestine, Texas, on February 23.

Security Division Reminder



Firearms are prohibited on all Goddard Space Flight Center facilities, roadways, properties and parking lots, without the prior consent of the Chief of Center Security.

Every employee has the responsibility to immediately report to Security (911) any person they observe possessing a firearm in violation of this policy. Employee safety is everyone's responsibility.

For more information, contact the Security Office at x1111.

What is CHARACTER COUNTS!

by Freda Johnson, Women of Wallops

CHARACTER COUNTS! is a program that influences millions of youth across the country, cutting misbehavior and crime rates, and improving students' commitment to school.

The program teaches children that their character does count, enforces the six pillars of character, advocates character, and models good behavior.

The Women of Wallops (WOW) Outreach Subcommittee and the Wallops Equal Opportunity Office partnered with the Accomack County, (Va.), School Board and school officials in April 2005 to implement a CHARACTER COUNTS! program for the 8th grade classes at Arcadia Middle School. The program was introduced in the 2005-2006 school year.

The program addresses six pillars of character development: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

Trustworthiness – Be honest

Respect – Treat others the way you want to be treated

Responsibility – Be accountable for your choices

Fairness – Be open-minded, listen to others

Caring – Be compassionate and show you care

Citizenship - Obey laws and rules

Wallops civil service and contractor employees serve as mentors preparing weekly plans and presenting lessons to the students on one pillar each month.

If you have 30-45 minutes a week, you can make a difference in the lives of middle school students. Become a character mentor. For further information to be a mentor, contact Freda Johnson at x1466 or Brenda Dingwall at x1412.

Lasko Space Heater Recall

A recent incident occurred at Goddard Space Flight involving a Lasko space heater, model 5700.

The heater plug melted and fused to the power strip. The investigation determined there was a recall on this product as well as model 5500.



The power cord connection can overheat and cause the cord to separate from the space heater. This poses a fire, burn and shock hazard. All space heaters of this type should be disconnected from power and removed from service immediately.

For additional information, visit http://www.laskoproducts.com/recall_heaters.html.

Building a Great Career

Career coach, Mary Mort will be available to visit with employees on March 1 or 2 in Building E-104, Room 307. A career coach can help you:

- Prepare an Effective Individual Development Plan
- Define Personal Values
- Create the BEST Resume
- Determine YOUR Strengths and Career Preferences
- Plan Training Necessary for Career Changes
- Achieve Life Balance

Contact Tracey White at x66-7823 to schedule an individual, confidential appointment.

Mail Awareness Seminar

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Building E-104, Room 310

Guest speakers will include

David C. Forde, U.S. Postal Inspector; Kimberly B. Johnston, V.P. Marketing, NASA FCU; and Debbie Watson, WFF Deputy Information Technology Security Manager.

Learn:

The do's and don'ts for E-mail

How thieves skim your personal information

Tips for protecting yourself from phishing attacks

How to minimize your risk for identity theft

How to manage your personal information cautiously and with heightened sensitivity

Sponsored by the Wallops Mail Services Center, Logistics Management Division. For further information contact Terry Ewell, Acting Wallops Mail Manager at x1133



4 BFG MudTerrain's 31x10.5x15. Excellent condition. Contact Jason Reese (757) 894-2774.

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov

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